

REMARKS

The present Amendment is submitted under 37 CFR 1.312 after issuance of the Notice of Allowance. The present Amendment was not submitted earlier since the errors in dependent claims 3, 8 and 13, which errors were added in the July 8, 2004 Response to Ex Parte Quayle Action, were not noticed earlier.

The present Amendment serves to ensure proper disclosure and protection of the invention. Entry of the present Amendment will not require any substantial work on the part of PTO personnel. Therefore, entry of the present Amendment is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, dependent claims 3, 8 and 13 are each amended in order to be consistent with the disclosure of the specification. In particular, claim 3 is amended to recite that the network layer address assignment request delay means detects, in the terminal specified by the data link layer address, instead of the network layer address, a network layer address assignment request directed to another terminal. Further, claim 3 is also amended to recite that the network layer address assignment request delay means delays transmission of a network layer assignment request from the terminal specified by the data link layer address, instead of the network layer address, when the extracted data link layer address is equal to the data link layer address of the terminal specified by the data link layer address, instead of the network layer address. Similar amendments are made to claims 8 and 13.

As disclosed beginning at line 3 on page 27 of the substitute specification and at line 20 on page 41 of the original specification and in Figure 3, a network layer address assignment request delay means (unit) is provided for detecting a network layer address assignment on the connected network, extracting the source data link layer address of the detected network layer address assignment request, and delaying transmission of a network layer address assignment request from the terminal specified by the data link layer address when the extracted data link layer address is identical to the data link layer address of the terminal. As further disclosed beginning at line 13 on page 27 of the substitute specification and at line 6 on page 42 of the original specification and in Figure 17, before transmitting a network layer address transmission request, a network layer address assignment request or a network layer address assignment

instruction is detected. When a network layer address assignment request which is directed to another terminal is detected, a source data link layer address of the detected network layer address assignment request is extracted. When the extracted data link layer address matches, i.e. is equal to, the data link layer address of the terminal which is specified by the data link layer address, transmission of a network layer address assignment request from the terminal which is specified by the data link layer address is delayed.

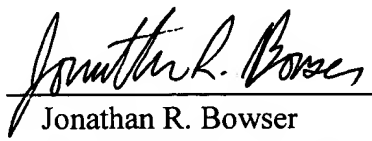
Accordingly, as disclosed in the present invention, the terminal which does not have a network layer address delays transmitting a network layer address assignment request. Delaying transmission of a network layer address assignment request is performed when a network layer address assignment request from another terminal which has the same data link layer address is detected.

The amendments to claims 3, 8 and 13 are therefore made to be consistent with the disclosure of the specification.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the present Amendment be entered as being directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention and to ensure the proper disclosure and protection of the invention.

Respectfully submitted,

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